circa 1745

Twice restored since its construction date, this
two-story frame house with a low-pitched gable roof possesses
many interesting architectural features, including the
almost seamless, flush-board siding of the two side elevations
and the pair of brick chimneys with triple one-story pents
at each end. Most of the delicate interior finishings are
of the Federal period. At one end stands a kitchen dependency
now connected to the main house by a one-story frame hyphen.
On the grounds stand several outbuildings, including a smokehouse, dairy, and log quarter. The hill on which the house
is situated is terraced in a series of falls, a typical feature
of Southern Maryland landscape architecture.

Deep Falls was patented to Thomas Thomas under the name Wales in 1680. The property has remained in the same family to the present day. Among the many notable Thomas family members to be associated with Deep Falls was James Thomas, Governor of Maryland, 1833-1836.

A pre-Revolutionary cemetery of the Thomas family survives here.

Also see archeological listing.

This property has been included on the National Register of Historic Places, United States Department of the Interior.

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Mar	yland
COUNT	
St.	Mary's
	FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY	

1.	NAME						_	
	COMMON:		20				1	
	Deep Falls						\dashv	
	AND/OF HISTORICS						1	
-	WALES							
2.	LOCATION							
	North side of Maryland Route 234, approximately 1 mile southeast							
	CITY OR TOWN: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.							
	Chaptico			First				
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	Maryland		24	St. Ma	ry's	03	7	
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	3.1	•			in progress	₩ No		
	PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)							
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CONDITION		(Check Or	ie)		(Ch	eck One)
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The property known as Deep Falls is situated on the north side of Maryland Route 234, one mile south of Chaptico and nine miles west of Leonardtown, in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The principal dwelling house on the property, easily visible from the road, is fronted by an attractive tree-lined drive with brick entrance posts.

Because of its unusual plan and the excellence of some of its interior and exterior detail, this two-story seven-bay frame house is believed to be one of the most interesting examples of Southern Maryland architecture, displaying an intriguing blend of eighteenth and nineteenth century styles.

Deep Falls began as a one-story four-room frame house that is said to have been built in 1745 but, if so, was apparently extensively remodeled at some time during the last two decades of the eighteenth century then again during the mid-nineteenth century. 1 Of the original house only the basics are known, largely because the later alterations appear to have obliterated any easily available evidence as to its earliest appearance. It is known that it measured about forty by thirty feet and that there was at least one pair of external chimneys with triple pents at the east end. second pair of chimneys, also possibly with triple pents, may have stood at the west end of this first stage but were conceivably removed when the house was extended in that area. This interesting combination of chimneys and pent closets, of which near duplicates were built at the west end when the extension of the house was made, are perhaps unique in their overall design. Although chimney pents are a common feature of eighteenth century Southern Maryland architecture, and are also found in areas of Virginia and North Carolina, there are no other extant examples of this particular form in the Southern Maryland region. Of further interest is the fact that apparently the area enclosed within the pents was with one exception, never utilized as closet space but rather provided recessed areas into which windows were set. treatment of the original facade has not yet been established but the present arrangement, taking into account several obvious changes, indicates that it had a five-bay principal (south) facade with a centrally located entrance door. Although that door has now'been altered the original that formerly occupied that location is believed to be the door now occupying the third bay from the west end; this door now opens into a later (west) end room. Like several windows

Land records of the mid-eighteenth century specifically refer to a house standing on this property at that time, as well as the landscaped terrace or falles. It was about this time that the name of the property was changed from "Whales" to "Deep Falls."

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
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FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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(Continuation Sheet) #1

(Number all entries)

Deep Falls

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

that are believed to be contemporary to the late eighteenth century stage of the house, this door has a three-part architrave with a heavy quarter-round outer molding, as well as a finely detailed six panel door and a four-light transom. The original house is known to have been of a one-story height but no other evidence about its exterior appearance is known at this time.

It seems apparent that although the surviving interior details of the earliest part of the house are consistently Federal in style and of a uniform type--all of it undoubtedly installed at the same time -- that, the initial first floor room configuration remains unaltered (see plan). The entrance door of the south facade (original house) opens into a large southwest room. This room has fairly simple woodwork, including a shallow dentiled ceiling cornice, 'all of the Federal period. Triple doors on the east wall of the room open into the present dining room which has an attractive Federal mantle, a closet to one side of the fireplace, and a three-part ceiling cornice. A door on the north wall of this room provides access to a slightly smaller rear room, also with a good, Federal-style mantle, and two windows set within arched niches formed by the pent closets flanking the fireplace. A large arched doorway on the north wall of the southwest room opens into a rear stair hall; and an early, transomed doorway oh the north wall of that room opens onto the garden side of the house. The stair is of a distinctly Federal style and is a particularly outstanding interior feature of the Its balustrade consists of a dark maple rail and newel, the latter surmounted by a rosewood cap and ivory knob, square curly maple balusters, and delicately shaped spandrels. During the residency of Deep Falls by Governor James Thomas, a sixth generation owner of the property, extensive alterations were made to the house. These later changes display a most remarkable combination of simple Federal period woodwork and ornamental neo-It was during the residency of Governor Thomas classic details. that the house evolved into its present form. Most notably this includes: 1, the extending of the house about twenty-five feet at the west end ? 2, the clerestory-type addition to the roof to provide for a full second floor; 3, the addition of deep, piazzatype porches to both the front and rear facades that cover the protruding first floor front and rear walls as well as successfully mask the variation in wall position; and, 4, the construction of the frequently photographed west end chimneys.2

The only difference in the chimneys, beyond the quality of brickwork, is that the later chimneys have stepped weatherings and flat arched windows as opposed to the flat tapered weatherings and round arched windows of the earlier chimney. The chimneys at the west end extend across the full width of that elevation while those of the east end are slightly smaller in width to allow for a door connecting the southeast first floor chamber to the

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Deep Falls

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

When the west end and second floor additions were made, the principal facade was altered to its present appearance. This includes the sheathing of both the upper and lower exterior wall surfaces with vertical flush boards which were then lightly stuccoed, the introduction of two windows and a door in the area of the extension, and the five second floor windows, including the larger center window of twelve over eight sash and arched molded pediment decorated with dentils and a stylized carved sunburst. It was at this same time that the original entrance door was removed, relocated, and replaced by a classically inspired door enframement composed of round columns with Ionic capitals and a heavy entablature into which is set a decoratively treated transom. This door framing is of the same style and date as a shallow three-sided bay window that replaced two former windows on the east side of the door. The bay window has round tapered columns with Ionic capitals dividing the three doublehung sashes, as well as a paneled base. Oddly enough, considering the late date of this particular window and the other decorative elements believed to have been introduced at the same time, all of the windows across this facade, even the sashes of the bay window, are stylistically of an earlier period, having nine over nine panes, three part architraves, and molded sills. The same is also basically true of the second floor windows, although the sash is of nine over six panes and the molding a simplified variation of those of the first floor.

The rear elevation (garden side) of Deep Falls is similar to the principal facade in the arrangement of its windows excepting that the center second floor window is of the same type as those flanking it. A near duplicate of the one-story bay window of the principal facade occupies a location near the northwest corner of the first floor level. This window, as well as a single entrance door of mid-to-late eighteenth century stylistic detail, and the two windows between them are sheltered by a / one-story, porch whose design follows closely that of the principal facade. Both of these porches have square posts with decoratively molded caps.

The interior detail in and contemporary to the two later west rooms includes a plaster ceiling cornice of a classical form and tapered columns with Ionic capitols on an arched door-way connecting the southwest room to the smaller room behind it. Other decorative elements introduced to the interior at this time are ornamental plaster ceiling medallions in all first floor rooms except the present kitchen (northeast room), and the stair, the design of which has already been discussed The stair, which rises from west to east on the south wall of the hall,

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Construction of the initial stage of Deep Falls is attributed to Major William Thomas who is believed to have built the house around 1745 on land patented to his grandfather, Thomas Thomas, in 1680 under the name "Wales." In addition to its obvious architectural interest, (i.e., the unusual treatment of the principal facade, the sophistication of some of its nineteenth century neo-classic detail, its handsome Federal staircase, and the unusual plan of its end chimneys), the property is further distinguished by the fact that it has remained in the Thomas family from 1651 to the present. During this time the Thomas family has made numerous valuable contributions to the social and political development of this state.

Major William Thomas, the alledged builder, was born in 1714. Late in his very active political life he was a member of the Committee of Safety for St. Mary's County and a delegate from St. Mary's to the Revolutionary Convention in Ahmapolis in 1775. His son, also named William, distinguished himself as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and as President of the Maryland Senate for the twelve years preceeding his death in 1813. His son, James, a graduate of St. John's College, Annapolis, was elected Governor of Maryland in 1833 and served a three-year term. James Walter Thomas, afson of the Governor, was a successful Cumberland, Maryland, attorney and wrote "Chronicles of Colonial Maryland." The Thomas family left Deep Falls early in this century and developed a shipping interest located in Baltimore. They have been most recently recognized as a major contributor toward the multirmillion dollar Thomas and Hugg memorial wing of the Maryland Historical Gociety headquarters in Baltimore.

Deep Falls has long been recognized as one of the most interesting, attractive, and best preserved eighteenth century homes in Southern Maryland. The terraced garden side of the house is perhaps one of the best surviving examples of this particular form of landscape architecture in the region. The unique manner in which the house developed into its present form physically reflects the increasing prosperity of a single St. Mary's County family from the colonization of

see continuation sheet #3

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Deep Falls

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

opens into a second floor hall from which five bedrooms open. All of the doors, moldings, and hardware in these rooms date from the mid-nineteenth century.

At the east end of the house is a three-bay frame hyphen that originally was closed only on the north side. The hyphen, apparently introduced during the late eighteenth century and remodeled in the early nineteenth century, connects the house to the semi-detached kitchen, the latter positioned at a right angle to the house. When Deep Falls was last restored by the Thomas family in the early 1960's this kitchen was in a dilapidated state and a great portion of it needed substantial repairs, including a complete reconstruction of its massive north end chimney.

In close proximity to the north end and east side of the kitchen is a frame, pyramid-roofed dairy, and a frame combination smokehouse and tool shed. Both of these buildings have been carefully and accurately restored.

Deep Falls sits on the crest of a knoll and the grounds around the house are terraced in a series of "falles", a typical feature of eighteenth century Southern Maryland landscape architecture. Situated on a second similarly landscaped knoll, about 150 yards east of the house, is one of the largest, most interesting, and beautifully maintained private cemeteries in Southern Maryland. Here lie the remains of several generations of the Thomas family including those of Governor James Thomas amid decorative Victorian iron fencing, large shade trees, and emmense boxwood.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Maryland to the present day. The house today stands as a monument to their many achievements.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY, continued

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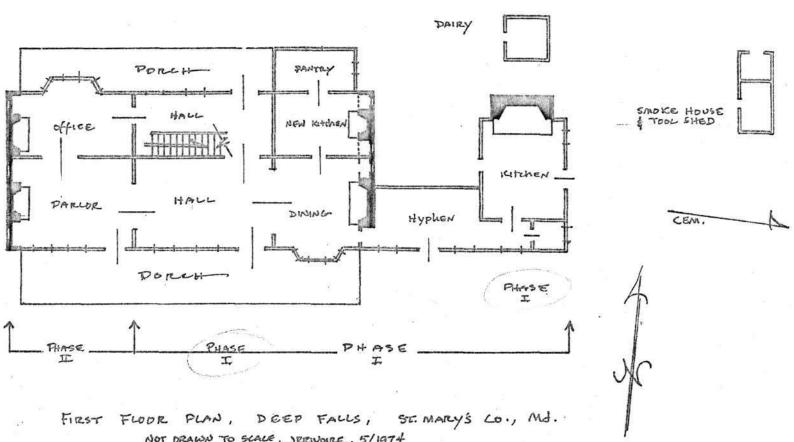
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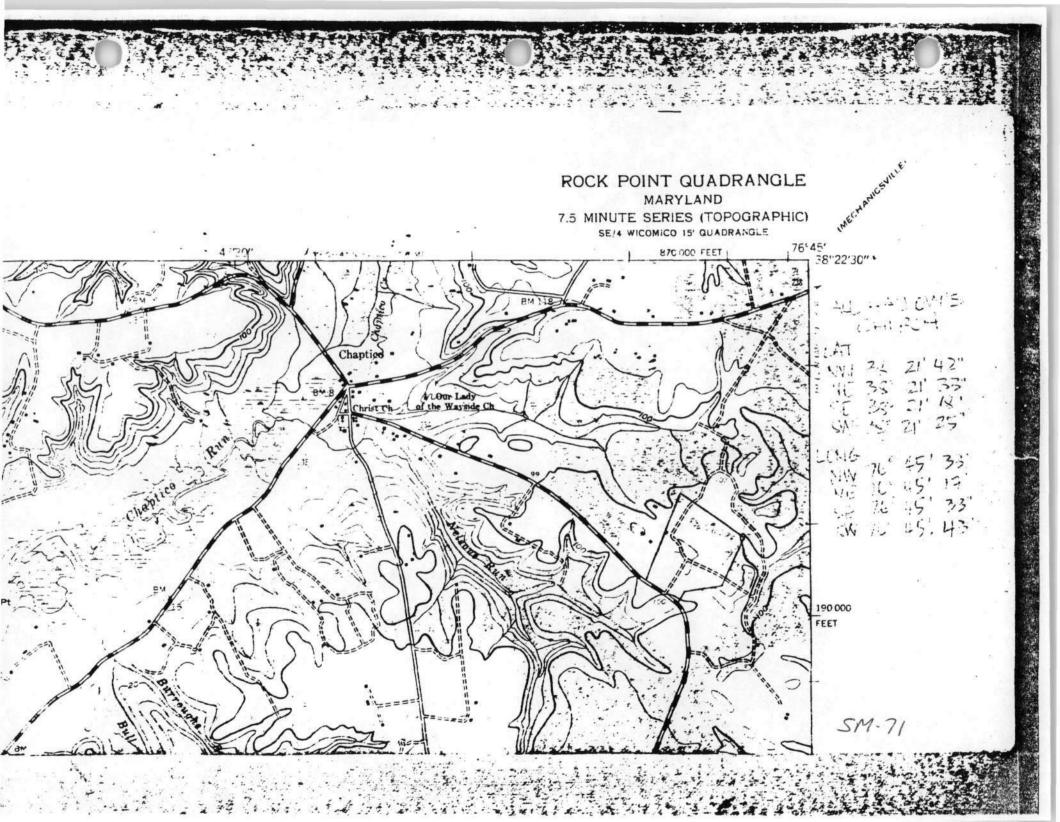
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(See	e continuation sheet No. 3)	
. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		
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Maryland Historical Trust STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road	May, 197	7 con.
· ·	Maryland	24
Annapolis . STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION	
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National [] State [] Local []	I hereby certify that this property is included National Register. Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preserving	vation
Arthur C. Townsend	ATTEST:	
Title State Historic Preservation		
Officer	Keeper of The National Register	
Date February 20, 1975	Date	



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE, DREWOIRE, 5/1974



CAPSULE SUMMARY
Addendum to SM-071
Deep Falls Tobacco Barn
Deep Falls Road
Chaptico Vicinity
St. Mary's County, Maryland

The Deep Falls Tobacco Barn is located on the north side of a dirt farm lane 0.2 miles northwest of the historic eighteenth century dwelling associated with the Deep Falls property. Situated at the top of a small knoll, the tobacco barn is surrounded by planted fields and several other barns, including at least four other twentieth-century tobacco barns. Deep Falls Tobacco Barn measures seventy-two by thirty-four feet and is laid out in a modern aisle plan. The barn's gable roof features a full-length clerestory ventilator along its ridge. A stripping room is located in the barn's north corner and a partially subterranean animal stall in the south corner.

Inventory No. SM-071

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Deep Falls (Wales), Tobacco Barn **Addendum**

Number 9 Page 0

The Deep Falls Tobacco Barn sits on the north side of a dirt farm lane 0.20 miles northwest of the historic eighteenth century dwelling associated with the Deep Falls property and 0.16 miles north of Rt. 234. Situated at the top of a small knoll, the tobacco barn is surrounded by planted fields and several other barns, including at least four other twentieth-century tobacco barns. The barn sits directly behind an early twentieth-century tenant house. The tobacco barn, built in the mid-twentieth century features a clerestory ventilator along its roof ridge and a modern central aisle running the length of the barn. A stripping room is located in the barn's north corner and a partially subterranean animal stall in the south corner.

Oriented southeast to northwest, Deep Fall Tobacco Barn measures seventy-two by thirty-four feet and is laid out in a modern central aisle plan. The barn is divided into six twelve-foot bays and contains eighteen rooms. There are two sets of main doors located on the southeast and northwest gable ends. There is an additional door into the animal stall in the south corner of the barn. Poured concrete masonry piers support the structure. All timbers are circular sawn and fastened with wire-nailed joints. The central aisle is lined with two rows of primary posts resting on poured concrete footers. Set back six inches from each row of principle posts is a rows of tier support posts alternating two support posts to every principle post. The tier support posts rest on concrete footers and consist of two boards sandwiching wooden blocks which in turn support tier poles at each tier. The tier support posts do not terminate at the joists but extend up to the rafters. Tier poles are uniformly-sawn pieces of lumber, two by four inches.

The barn is sheathed with vertical board-and-batten siding. Top-hinged vertical board vents punctuate the northeast and southwest walls on roughly four foot centers. The gable roof is covered with standing seem metal. Rafters on four-foot centers are supported by three collars and rest on a flat false plat. A gable-roofed clerestory ventilator runs the length of the barn. Top-hinged horizontal vents measuring roughly two by one foot run continuously along the ventilator's northeast and southwest walls. The ventilator is sixty-seven feet long and three feet wide.

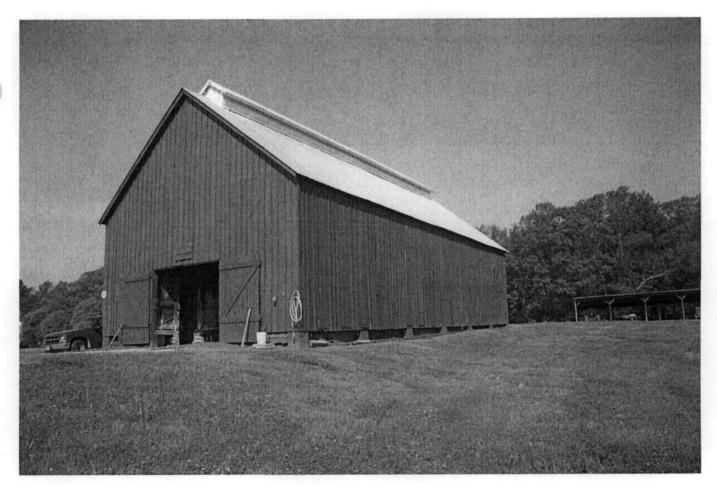
There is an interior stripping room in the barn's south corner. The interior of the room's northeast and northwest walls are covered with white-washed board-and-batten siding. Two small windows on the southeast and southwest walls of the barn light this workspace. The floor of the stripping room is dirt. Another small partially subterranean room in the barn's north corner appears to be a stall for animals. Similar to the stripping room, the interior southeast and southwest walls of the room are white-washed board-and-batten. Hay covers the room's dirt floor.

Deep Falls Tobacco Barn is representative of large mid-twentieth century barns in southern Maryland in which clerestory roof ventilators were employed by the farmer as an advanced strategy for air-curing. Vents at the apex of the roof allowed hot air trapped under the barn's roof to circulate through the tobacco and out the clerestory. Like many of the other agricultural buildings on this property, Deep Falls Tobacco Barn is well maintained and painted bright red. The barn is currently used for agricultural equipment storage.

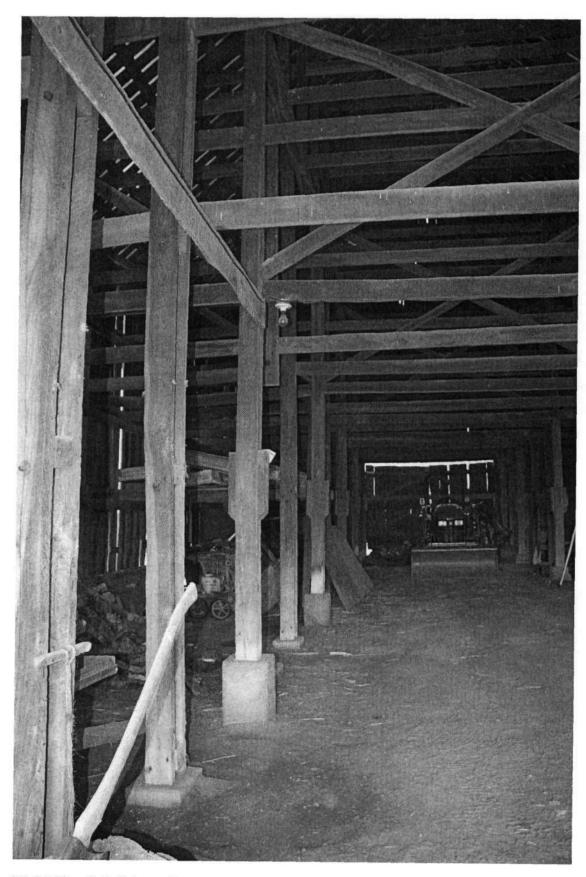
Information gathered from this barn can also be used to understand larger patterns of tobacco barn construction and curing processes across southern Maryland. Between 2007 and 2008, the Center for Historic Architecture and Design conducted intensive-level documentation across Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties on tobacco barns that represented both common and unique construction between 1750 and 1950. Like the Calvert County Tobacco Barn Survey conducted in 1990, the purpose of this study was to document and record tobacco barns as a highly threatened architectural and agricultural resource. The National Trust for Preservation cited the Southern Maryland Tobacco Barn as one of the eleven most threatened building types in the United States. Information from this study reveals specific patterns of change over time in use and construction of tobacco barns across the southern Maryland region.

SM-71 Deep Falls Tobacco Barn Deep Falls Rd. Chaptico Vicinity St. Mary's County, Maryland

For additional documentation of this resource see the "Southern Maryland Tobacco Barn Project"; call number FRR Mary 21



SM-071 Deep Falls Tobacco Barn Chaptico, St. Mary's County Photo by Center for Historic Architecture and Design Staff Looking south May, 2008



SM-071 Deep Falls Tobacco Barn Chaptico, St. Mary's County Photo by Center for Historic Architecture and Design Staff Looking southeast May, 2008



5M-71 Deep Falls St. Mary's County, Ad Kirk Ranzetta Ad SHPO Nov 1999 Looking N+E 1065



SM-71 Deep Falls St. May's County, and Kirk Ranzetta Ad SHPO Nov. 1999 Looking N+E 2 85



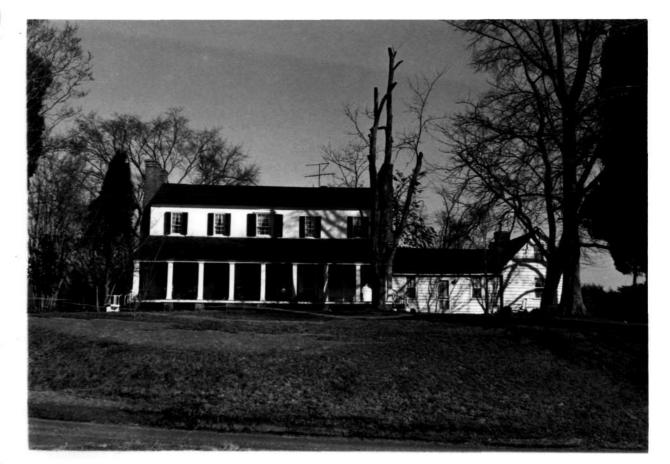
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SM-71 Deep Falls St. Mary's County, Md Kirk Zanzetta and SHPO NOV 1999 Menthouse - N+ Welevations 4 8 5



SM-71 Deep Falls St. Mary's County, and Kirk Ranzetta ord SHPO Nov. 1999 Cemetery - Looking S 5 85



SM-71 Deep Falls



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SM-71 DeepFalls

475



DEEP FAIls-SE corner, main block Rivore /5774 5M-71